

ABSTRACT

[00056] A satellite direct audio broadcast system includes a plurality of fixed-rate, uniform, frequency division multiple access ("FDMA") uplinks and a time division multiplexed ("TDM") downlink. Source audio channels may be divided among and transmitted through a selectable number of fixed-rate uplinks so as to have selectable audio quality at the receiver. Fixed-rate FDMA uplinks include information designating related channels as containing related source information. On-board the satellite baseband processing selects uplink information channels for inclusion into none, one or multiple TDM downlinks. Transmitted audio information may be scrambled, and authorization downloaded to receivers to permit descrambling for paid subscription service.